

RESPONSE

Claims Status

Claims 1-34 were originally filed in this application. In an Office Action dated July 18, 2005, claims 1-34 were rejected. In response, Applicants filed an Amendment and Response on December 16, 2005, in which claims 1, 28, 11, 17, 18, 24, 27, 29, 33 and 34 were cancelled, claims 3-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 19-23, 25, 26, 28, 30 and 31 were been amended, and claims 35-42 were added. A final Office Action was issued on February 15, 2006, citing new art and rejecting all pending claims. In response, Applicants amended claims 3, 9, 10, 14, 19, 25, 26, 28, 30, 36 and 42, and a Request for Continued Examination was filed on June 8, 2006.

A subsequent Office Action issued on August 10, 2006. In response, Applicants have amended claims 35, 38, 39 and 40. Support for the amendments can be found at least in the originally filed claims and throughout the application, such as at paragraph [0034]. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

In the current Action, claims 35 and 40 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112 for various informalities.

Claim Rejections

In the current Action, claims 3, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification.

Claims 9, 25, 35-37 and 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,153 to Dujari (“Dujari”) in and further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,372,974 to Gross (“Gross”).

Claims 3-6, 14-16, 19-22, 30-32 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably obvious in light of Dujari and Gross in further view of Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0082730 to Capps (“Capps”).

Claims 7, 13 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably obvious in view of Dujari and Gross, in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0135859 to Puttermann (“Puttermann”).

Claim 10 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably obvious in view of Dujari and Gross, in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0110236 to Yang (“Yang”).

Claims 12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably obvious in view of Dujari and Gross, in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0113946 to Janik (“Janik”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments submitted above overcome these rejections, and as such the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In response to objections and rejections listed in sections 4 through 10 of the Office Action, claims 35 and 38-40 have been amended, and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of these objections and rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Independent claim 35 recites, in part, an audio/visual system that facilitates the receipt of a content selection, determines if the selected content resides on the audio/visual system in a digital format native to the system, and if not, retrieves the content from another source in a format other than the native format, converting the content into the native format, and provides the content to a rendering circuit, thereby presenting the content to the rendering circuit as if it had been retrieved from the device subsystem in the native format. Likewise, amended independent claim 40 recites, in part, receiving a content selection via a user interface of a player device and determining if the content is accessible in a digital format native to the player device, and if not, obtaining the content from another source in another format, converting the content into the native format, and rendering it as though read from the device subsystem.

As noted by the Examiner, Dujari does not teach or suggest a system that, upon locating a selected media element, converts the media element into a digital format native to the

audio/visual system. For this, the Examiner points to column 2, lines 24-43 of Gross. Gross, however, merely describes a peer-to-peer digital music player that, like every digital music player, converts digital information into analog information using a simple digital-to-analog converter in order to play audio files via a speaker or other listening device.

In contrast to Dujari and Gross, Applicants' claimed invention includes emulation capabilities that allow an audio/visual system to locate, retrieve and display content retrieved from other sources and stored in non-native formats by providing an emulation circuit that locates, converts and presents the content as if retrieved from the system itself, thus emulating the system by proving the content in the digital native format.

Capps does not provide what Dujari and Gross lack, as Capps does not describe the use of an emulation circuit acting as a proxy for an audio/visual device, such that media elements can be displayed as if retrieved from the device even if they actually originate elsewhere and were retrieved in non-native formats. Instead, the universal media player described by Capps decodes the MIME type associated with a media element and subsequently determines if the element is in a format recognized by the player. If not, the media player relinquishes control of the element and allows it to be played using another player that must be downloaded from a server. Para. [0042]. Thus, unlike Applicants' system that emulates other media sources by converting remotely supplied media content such that it is presented to a display as if residing on the device itself, Capps relies on external decoders and players to display unsupported media types.

Puterman does not cure the deficiencies of Dujari or Gross. Puterman is generally directed to a system for distributing media among various clients within a home media network that includes various devices such as "a personal computer (PC), an acquisition/storage set-top box, control/-playback set-top boxes, a digital interface and a personal digital assistant (PDA) all coupled via a data transmission medium." Para. [0029]. To facilitate ordering, control and playback of media at the various devices, "[d]igital data content objects are transmitted from one device within the home network to the other devices via transmission medium." Para. [0030]. Puterman does not, however, teach or suggest using an emulation circuit in one device to locate a desired media element on other devices, nor does Puterman contemplate providing the element to a display as if the element were resident on the device itself, as claimed.

Similar to Putterman, Janik relies on user-specified instructions including the location of the desired media element. Janik is generally directed to a system that facilitates the playback of digital content stored on a PC on existing audio equipment. Para. [0011]. The system described by Janik includes a PC to “acquire, store, manage and serve digital audio content” and a digital audio converter that “is connected to a conventional stereo receiver via the right and left RCA jack inputs.” Paras. [0046] and [0047]. The digital audio converter receives digital audio streams sent from the PC, decodes and decompresses the digital audio in real time, and converts it from a digital format into a analog electrical signal. Para. [0050]. Janik’s system does not include an emulation circuit in the device itself that can locate a desired media element regardless of location, and provide the element to a display as if the element were resident on the device itself, as claimed.

Finally, Yang does not remedy the deficiencies of Dujari and Capps described above. Yang is generally directed to a system that delivers requested multimedia content using an abstract content model and an optimal content delivery plan based on the content model. The content model uses various attributes of the requested content and characteristics of the network on which the content is to be delivered to determine the best-fit delivery plan. Para. [0039].

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 35 and 40, as well as those claims that depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.

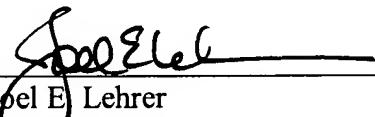
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of this Amendment and Response, and submit that all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, in his review of this Amendment and Response or after further examination, that a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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